

# The Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund offer in Kent

“Supporting settings to support children with special educational needs.”

## Information for settings



Supporting Children to  
Play, Learn and Grow... Together!

## **Special Educational Needs Inclusion Funding (SENIF)**

The Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF) is a statutory requirement made available by KCC to enable Early Years settings, childminders and out of school providers supporting pre-school children with special educational needs to secure better outcomes.

**It is not designed to provide 1:1 support as research has shown that this is not the best way to support most children.**

Once an application for SENIF has been agreed, consideration is given under the termly Multi Agency Planning (MAP) process as to the additional support that could be offered as part of the SENIF offer. This could take the form of a SENIF Practitioner supporting the child's keyperson and developing skills and capacity and / or the offer of centrally funded training for setting staff.

SENIF Practitioners can be allocated following recommendation and agreement at an EY LIFT meeting, to support the Early Years setting without the setting being in receipt of SENIF

SENIF Practitioners are Early Years Professionals employed by the Local Authority who have worked extensively in the Early Years sector.

Training that may be offered as an outcome of MAP, will be delivered by the Equality & Inclusion Team or Specialist Teaching and Learning Service and will be pertinent to the needs of the child.

## **Role of the SENIF Finance Team**

- To consider incoming requests for SENIF, making contact with settings if any required evidence is outstanding.
- To share details about SENIF agreements made, including amount allocated and duration of the agreement.
- To share the details of the agreements made as part of the MAP process for consideration of the wider SENIF Offer (SENIF Practitioner Intervention and/or relevant Training)

## **Role of the SENIF Practitioner**

- To support settings to implement Personalised Plans, advice and programmes, provided by professionals to enable children to make progress and fully access the EYFS.
- To model ways of working and advise on strategies suggested by Specialist Teachers or Specialist Intervention Managers.
- To support transitions where appropriate between private, voluntary, independent and Specialist Early Years settings.
- To work with the child *and* the keyperson for an agreed period, with the aim of supporting Early Years practitioners to continue working with the child independently after that period.
- To provide guidance to Early Years Settings regarding a range of resources and training that will support and encourage learning to take place for those children in receipt of SEN Inclusion Funding.

## **Role of the SENIF Monitoring Officer**

- To monitor and evaluate the provision for individual children in receipt of SENIF attending PVI settings, maintained nursery classes and childminders, ensuring that they are making appropriate educational progress.
- To offer support visits, under the direction of the SENIF Finance team, to support the SENIF process and signpost to relevant information.